

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

By the present preliminary amendment the specification is amended to reference related applications. Further, a new Abstract believed to be in more proper format under United States practice is submitted.

Further, the original claims are canceled without prejudice and new Claims 13-22 are presented for examination. New Claims 13-22 are deemed to be self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
SNS/rac

Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423

I:\ATTY\SNS\277409US-PR.DOC